

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration. Claims 2-11 and 13-18 are objected to.

The rejection of claim 23 is respectfully traversed. This claim recites a plurality of transfer backup rollers respectively opposite the photosensitive drums. Thus, the transfer backup rollers are opposite the photosensitive drums.

The Examiner relies upon FIG. 2 of Sameshima. However, this FIG. illustrates that the primary transfer rollers 80a-80d (relied upon by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed backup rollers) are not opposite the image carriers 1a-1d (relied upon by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed photosensitive drums). Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The rejection of claims 1, 12 and 19-22 is respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites a transfer backup roller ascending and descending portion which ascends and descends the transfer backup roller assembly towards and away from the driving assembly. Present FIGS. 6a and 6b illustrate this feature, for example.

In contrast, Tokutake relies upon a user to pull the transfer unit 7. Thus, there is no ascending and descending portion, as claimed. Instead, this function is performed manually by the user without such an element. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

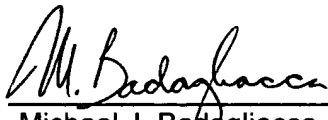
Serial No. 10/687,965

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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